

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: PRAVDA ARTICLE ON 14TH CONGRESS INCLUDES FAVORABLE
REFERENCE TO STALIN

1. SUMMARY. STALIN IS MENTIONED BY NAME, AND STALINIST
POLICIES RECEIVE FAVORABLE TREATMENT, IN DECEMBER 18 PRAVDA
ARTICLE ON 14TH PARTY CONGRESS. SIMILAR ARTICLE IN
SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' DOES NOT MENTION STALIN. BOTH ARTICLES
EMPHASIZE CONTINUING IMPORTANCE OF RAPID INDUSTRIAL DEVELOP-
MENT. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA DECEMBER 18 CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY DOCTOR OF
HISTORY AND PROFESSOR K. SUVOROV COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE 14TH PARTY CONGRESS IN WHICH PRAVDA'S APPARENT
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MORATORIUM OF THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS ON MENTION OF

STALIN IS NOT FOLLOWED.

3. THE SINGLE MENTION OF STALIN'S NAME COMES AT THE BEGINNING OF SUVOROV'S LENGTHY ARTICLE (WHICH FILLS ONE THIRD OF PRAVDA'S SECOND PAGE): "THE LINE OF THE PARTY (AT THE 14TH CONGRESS) WAS BASED ON THE POLITICAL REPORT OF ITS CENTRAL COMMITTEE, MADE BY GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CC I.V. STALIN, AND ALSO ON OTHER REPORTS AND SPEECHES OF THE DELEGATES."

4. THE GIST OF THE ARTICLE IS THAT THE POLICY OF SOCIAL-LISM IN ONE COUNTRY, FEATURING EMPHASIS UPON RAPID INDUSTRIALIZATION, WAS ABSOLUTELY CORRECT FOR THE CONDITIONS THEN OBTAINING. AFTER REVIEWING THE STALINIST CONCEPTION OF CAPITALIST ENCIRCLEMENT, APPROVING HIS POLICY OF "MONOLITHIC UNITY" WITHIN THE PARTY, AND CRITICIZING THE VIEWS OF THE TROTSKYITE "NEW OPPOSITION" AT THE 14TH CONGRESS, SUVOROV CONCLUDES THAT THE LENINIST POSITION REGARDING THE "FUNDAMENTAL ROLE" OF INDUSTRY REMAINS VITAL FOR THE PRESENT PERIOD OF THE USSR'S DEVELOPMENT, AS REFLECTED AT THE 24TH CONGRESS AND IN THE DRAFT OF THE 10TH FIVE YEAR PLAN.

5. ANOTHER ARTICLE COMMEMORATING THE 14TH CONGRESS APPEARS IN SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' DECEMBER 18. THIS ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY CANDIDATE OF HISTORICAL SCIENCES M. SESLAVIN, DOES NOT MENTION STALIN. LIKE THE PRAVDA PIECE, IT STRONGLY SUPPORTS INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION. SESLAVIN ALSO PLUGS ACCELERATED INDUSTRIALIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

6. COMMENT WE ARE STRUCK NOT ONLY BY THE FAVORABLE MENTION OF STALIN'S NAME IN PRAVDA DURING THIS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE PRE-CONGRESS PERIOD, BUT BY THE TONE OF SUVOROV'S ACCOUNT, WHICH GENERALLY IMPLIES THAT STALIN'S POLICIES WERE CORRECT ACROSS-TH-BOARD FROM THE TIME OF THE 14TH CONGRESS THROUGH THE WAR.

7. BRITISH EMBASSY HERE IS MORE INCLINED THAN WE ARE TO INTERPRET THE PRAVDA ARTICLE AS DEFENSE OF CURRENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMPHASIS UPON PRODUCES' GOODS AS OPPOSED TO CONSUMER GOODS. THIS MAY WELL BE A VALID ANALYSIS, AND WE WILL BE ON LOOKOUT FOR CORROBORATING EVIDENCE. BRITISH ALSO HAVE RAISED QUESTION AS TO WHETHER SUVOROV'S APPROVAL OF SOCIALISM IN ONE COUNTRY MAY IMPLY CRITICISM OF THOSE WHO CURRENTLY FAVOR INCREASED TRADE WITH THE WEST.

8. WHILE THE ARTICLE'S POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE IS DIFFI-

CULT TO ASSESS IN THE ABSENCE OF DIRECT EVIDENCE SUPPORTING
ONE OR ANOTHER INTERPRETATION,WE FEEL CONFIDENT THAT
THE DECISION TO PRINT THE ARTICLE, AND TO INCLUDE THE
SENTENCE MENTIONING STALIN, WAS NOT TAKEN LIGHTLY.
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